

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 EUR-25 OPR-02 OMB-01 SY-10 AID-20 MC-02 DRC-01

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4111

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI PENETRATION AND
SECOND CEASEFIRE

1. FROM INITIAL SOUNDINGS, EGYPTIAN MOOD OF TODAY, OCTOBER 25, IS ONE OF SOME CONFUSION AND DISBELIEF. MANY HAVE BEGUN TO REALIZE THAT EXTENT OF ISRAELI PENETRATION TO WEST BANK IS CONSIDERABLE, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY UNCONTAINABLE. THEY HAVE AS YET NOT FOCUSED ON WHO SHOULD BE BLAMED FOR INCREASINGLY APPARENT DEFEAT OF PART OF THEIR FORCES, BUT HAVE BEGUN ASKING SOME HARD QUESTIONS.

2. SOME OF THESE CONCERN THE ARMY: HOW DID IT PERMIT IDF FORCE TO CROSS INTO WEST BANK? IS IT STILL ABLE TO FIGHT, AND IF SO, WHY IS IT NOT FIGHTING? HAS MILITARY COMMAND PASSED ON ACCURATE INFORMATON? STORIES HAVE BEGUN TO CIRCULATE ABOUT SUMMARY COURTS-MARTIAL OF HIGH-RANKING
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OFFICERS (A NOT UNLIKELY EVENT IN THE CIRUCMSTANCE) AND

OF AT LEAST ONE SUMMARY EXECUTION OF A GENERAL (IMPROBABLE.).

3. OTHER QUESTIONS CONCERN THE CEASEFIRE ITSELF. IF ARMY UNITS ARE STILL INTACT AND ARMED, AS THEY APPEAR TO BE, HOW CAN THEY ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE WHEN THERE ARE ANY ISRAELIS IN EGYPT? WHY SHOULD A CEASEFIRE BE IMPOSED NOW WHEN, APPARENTLY, GOE WAS TWO DAYS AGO EMOTING CONFIDENCE? THERE ARE STILL SOME WHO BELIEVE THAT WITH ONLY AN EXTRA BURST OF WILL; EGYPT CAN CLEAR THE ISRAELIS OFF THEIR LAND.

4. BOTH THE US AND SOVIET UNION ARE ALSO THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION--THE US BECAUSE OF ITS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL (ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT TARGETED AS FOCUS OF EMOTIONAL AND HOSTILE ATTENTION IN PRESS), AND THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE IT HAS NOT YET DELIVERED ON WHAT MANY EGYPTIANS BELIEVE IS A FIRM UNDERTAKING TO BACK EGYPT IN ITS POLITICAL GOALS.

5. PRESENT STATE OF MIND IS VISIBLY CONFUSED. CAIRO PRESS TODAY IS TRYING IT'S BEST TO DOWNPLAY EXTENT OF ISRAELI PRESENCE AND CALM DOUBTS ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION. MOST NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, PLAY UP ALLEGATION OF ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF FIRST CEASEFIRE WHICH PLACE MORE MEN AND MORE EQUIPMENT ACROSS CANAL AND PERMITTED THEM TO EXPAND THEIR BRIDGEHEAD INTO EGYPT PROPER; AND EDITORIALIST EXPRESS CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER ISRAEL WOULD WANT TO ACCEPT ANY CEASEFIRE WHATSOEVER.

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